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SHG Press Office

St Helena Airport

Airport Certification

Basil Read is currently taking part in a further round of desktop audits with the regulator, Air Safety Support International (ASSI). Alongside this, work is progressing well on a number of fronts in relation to preparation for Airport operations.

The outcome of the desktop audits is expected in February, and this will inform next steps, including the requirements for an on-Island audit - needed in order to certify the Airport.

Bulk Fuel Installation



Permanent BFI
Dec 2015

The permanent BFI in Upper Rupert's comprises 4 diesel tanks, 2 aviation fuel tanks and 2 petrol tanks - each with 750,000l capacity. Considerable work has been taking place on the fuel systems, and it is planned that the future arrangements for handling fuel will include:

- Two separate floating hoses, one dedicated to aviation fuel and the other to ground fuels, will be used to transfer fuel from ship to shore.
- These hoses will be connected to break tanks at the Bayside Fuel Facility.
- Fuel will then be pumped to the permanent BFI in Upper Rupert's via two surface pipelines, one dedicated to aviation fuel and the other to ground fuels.
- Fuel will then be stored at the permanent BFI in Upper Rupert's.
- Fuel intended for the Power Station, the Island's largest consumer, will be transferred from the BFI to the Power Station via a dedicated pipeline.

Detailed designs are currently being prepared for the ship to shore arrangements and the Bayside Fuel Facility. Work has progressed on the pipelines that will connect the Bayside Fuel Facility with the Permanent BFI in Upper Rupert's and on the dedicated pipeline to the Power Station. Finally, all of the fuel tanks and the firewater tank have been erected at the permanent BFI and the accompanying piping is now in place.

It is expected that the commissioning of the fuel systems will take place later this year. Prior to this, the aviation fuel needed for Airport operations will be managed using temporary 'tanktainers', with the Island's diesel and petrol supplies continuing to be managed at the existing BFI.



BFI Pipeline
Jan 2016

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Airport Project Annual Environmental Report 2014-15 Published

The St Helena Airport Project Annual Environmental Report (AER) 2014-15 is the third AER produced for the St Helena Airport Project.

It provides an overview of the busiest construction period on the project to date, with activity taking place across the various sites within the Airport Development area (ADA). This includes works at the Permanent Wharf, the Bulk Fuel Installation, Airport Access Road and the Airport itself.

Monitoring all of this activity represented a great challenge for the environment team.

The diverse nature of the sites and the scale of construction work meant that this was a challenging year for the Airport Project as a whole.



View from the Barn Overlooking the Airport Runway
Sep 2015
© Basil Read

The highlights for 2014/15 included the completion of Dry Gut Fill, works on the runway, works at the Airport Buildings and the installation of an incinerator at the Horse Point landfill site.

The same key performance indicators and structures as in previous AERs were employed to enable an easy comparison of environmental performance across the three reports. During the reporting period of 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, Basil Read continued to maintain their commitment to protecting St Helena's environment and to minimising any adverse environmental impacts.

There have been a number of environmental incidents during the reporting year, mostly related to hydrocarbon spills and general waste management. The most significant incident was the uncovering of an unmarked grave in Rupert's. Whilst widening the Access Road. Specialist archaeological support was utilised to advise the teams on the ground on appropriate mitigation. The uncovered Liberated African Slave remains were excavated and are being stored pending plans for reburial. Design works also took place to reduce the construction footprint in the area.

There have also been positive developments. These include an increase in Wirebird numbers within the ADA and a reduction in the use of resources such as water and diesel. It was also pleasing that complaints reduced by 50% compared to the previous year partly attributed to the proactive approach of Basil Read's Community Liaison Officer.

During this reporting period, the Airport team also developed a solution to disposal of hazardous waste generated by the project. This process consists of a combination of incineration and disposal in a hazardous waste cell for materials not suitable for incineration. These facilities will also provide a lasting legacy for the Island, allowing the safe management of hazardous waste beyond the Airport Project.

Basil Read Project Director, Jimmy Johnston, said:



Excavation works in Rupert's
Dec 2014
© Basil Read

"In reviewing the Annual Environmental Report for 2014-15 for the St Helena Airport Project, it is pleasing to note that the efforts of Bryony Walmsley, plus the on-Island and off-Island teams, have supported improvements in several Key Performance Indicators.

"However, attention is still required with regard to personnel behaviour and to dust and noise emissions.

"I am confident that with the experience and professionalism of the Environmental Team, together with other members of the site team, we will succeed in the continual improvement of our environmental aims and objectives."

For more information and a full copy of the report visit the St Helena Air Access Website at:

<http://www.sainthelenaaccess.com/news/>

Stakeholder Engagement Forum

A further Airport Stakeholder Engagement Forum (SEF) was held at the Museum of St Helena on Wednesday 20 January 2016. A small group was present on the evening to learn about general progress on the Airport and to hear about the St Helena Airport Environmental Annual Report for 2014-15.

Representatives from Air Access, Halcrow and the environmental teams were present to address questions from the audience, and Robert Kleinjan, Environmental Monitor for Halcrow, delivered a presentation on the environmental report.



Landscape & Ecology Mitigation Programme



Experimental seed sowing works at Prosperous Bay Plain have resulted in the natural spread of endemic babies toes (*Hydrodea Cryptantha*).

It's still early days but this is a very positive result for the LEMP team.

Bottom Woods Access Road



© Basil Read



© Basil Read

Basil Read would like to advise the public that work on the Bottom Woods Airport Access Road re-started on Monday 18 January 2016 and will continue for around two weeks.

The works will include the hauling, off-loading and compacting of road materials. A base course layer consisting of 150mm of crushed rock will be followed with a bitumen-based prime application, and a final 19mm cape seal surface layer - this will be the final layer on this section of the road.

Drivers are advised to proceed with caution and to adhere to the signage in place.

Basil Read apologises in advance for any inconvenience caused and thanks the public for their continued support.

For further information please contact Annina van Neel, Liaison Officer on Tel: 24026 or E-mail: avneel@brshap.co.za